

**KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 2-3, 2006**

**STATE BOARD ROOM  
1ST FLOOR, CAPITAL PLAZA TOWER  
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY**

***SUMMARY MINUTES***

The Kentucky Board of Education held its regular meeting on August 2-3, 2006, in the State Board Room, First Floor, Capital Plaza Tower, Frankfort, Kentucky. The Board conducted the following business:

**Wednesday, August 2, 2006**

***NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING***

Chair David Rhodes called the Nominating Committee to order at 8:00 a.m. and indicated the purpose of the meeting was to come up with a recommendation for chair and vice chair that would be forwarded to the full Board later today.

At 8:05 a.m., C.B. Akins moved to enter into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel. Janna Vice seconded the motion and it carried.

At 8:15 a.m., the committee came out of closed session on a motion by Janna Vice and Judy Gibbons that carried. Chair Rhodes stated no action was taken during the closed session.

At this point, C.B. Akins moved to recommend Keith Travis as chair and Judy Gibbons seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Next, Janna Vice moved to recommend Bonnie Lash Freeman as vice chair and C.B. Akins seconded the motion. The motion carried.

At 8:20 a.m., Chair Rhodes adjourned the meeting.

***CALL TO ORDER***

Chair Keith Travis called the full Board meeting to order at 9.05 a.m.

***ROLL CALL***

Present for the meeting were C.B. Akins, Kaye Baird, Joe Brothers, Bonnie Lash Freeman, Judy Gibbons, Doug Hubbard, David Rhodes, Keith Travis, Janna Vice and

David Webb. Jeanne Ferguson joined the meeting at 10:35 a.m. Absent was Tom Layzell.

### ***APPROVAL OF SUMMARY MINUTES***

Bonnie Lash Freeman moved approval of the June 13-14, 2006, regular meeting minutes and C.B. Akins seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### ***REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION***

Secretary Virginia Fox reported the following items:

- Secretary Fox accepted the Newman Award from the Education Commission of the States (ECS) and indicated the Kentucky Board of Education was a big part of sustaining the innovation and reform over time that resulted in this award.
- The Wallace Foundation funded a trip to Harvard for some Kentucky districts and a state team and Kentucky stood out. She said that we aren't where we ultimately need to be but noted we are so much farther ahead of many other states. She emphasized that we are to the point of dealing with changing cultures in order to improve instruction, whereas many others are still grappling with the technical changes. Fox emphasized that anytime you go somewhere with Commissioner Wilhoit, it makes her realize how lucky we are to have him and how lucky he is to have a Board that works in tandem with him.

David Webb added that the Education Commission of the States Public Award went to the public broadcasting system and noted that they recognized Kentucky's progress.

### ***REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION***

Chair Keith Travis indicated that Dr. Layzell could not attend today and that a written report could be found in each Board member's meeting folder.

### ***REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD***

Dr. Phillip Rogers reported the following:

- Secretary Virginia Fox did a wonderful job accepting the ECS award.
- The Education Professional Standards Board held its retreat in June and will vote on its goals and objectives in August. He noted that this is the first time there has been a focus on student achievement within the goals and objectives.
- On July 18, the Education Redesign Task Force met and divided up into four work groups to look at principal preparation, induction of principals and working

conditions, professional development and a doctoral program at comprehensive universities.

### ***REPORT FROM THE PRE-K TO 16 COUNCIL***

David Rhodes reported the following items from the June 21, 2006, meeting and noted that Dorie Combs presided:

- Representatives of local P-16 Councils from Morehead and Paducah reported on their work.
- The implementation of recommendations from the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Kentucky Education Forum were discussed. Linda France outlined the steps undertaken by the Kentucky Department of Education and Dianne Bazell outlined the Council on Postsecondary Education's activities.
- A status update on the American Diploma Project Network occurred. Several P-16 council members attended a National American Diploma Project Network meeting and were pleasantly surprised that Kentucky was considered a leader by other states in this work. The meeting pointed out the need for better counseling opportunities for all high school students, common data systems across the P-16 spectrum, and a greater involvement of business partners in developing rigorous and relevant course work that will be engaging to students.
- Carolyn Witt Jones, Partnership for Successful Schools, presented an update on the State Scholars Program. She outlined challenges that will require attention and asked the council to think about a messaging campaign to engage additional students, revisions that may be needed to the KEES scholarship funding process to support more rigorous course taking, and creative ways to address teacher certification for hard-to-fill positions.
- Keith Byrd, Chancellor of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, presented the results of a new study from ACT indicating that high school students need comparable skills and levels of mastery whether they plan to enter college or the skilled workforce.
- Linda France presented information on the initial meeting of the Interagency Task Force on Dual Credit that was convened at the request of the Kentucky Board of Education to look at the effect of dual enrollment and dual credit on the strengthening of high school achievement and graduation. The task force outlined the work they plan to achieve and the information needed to complete that work. The group is expected to meet monthly with the next meeting to occur in July.
- The meeting ended with the election of a new P-16 Council chair, Dr. Mark Wattier, Professor, Government, Law and International Affairs, Murray State University, and the reading of a resolution honoring Dr. Dorie Combs, retiring chair.

## ***REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION***

Commissioner Gene Wilhoit reported on the following:

- Commissioner Wilhoit introduced Susie Nally, the Department's KDE Employee of the Month for July. Susie is an Administrative Specialist in the Office of Education Technology.
- As far as the approval by the United States Department of Education (USDOE) of states on the Peer Review for their assessment systems, two states have been approved and three states are pending approval, with the rest directed to do further work to gain approval. In Kentucky, a nonsubstantive area for further work has to do with the augmented assessments where USDOE has a question on the connection between these tests and the current assessment. The augmented assessments were only used for one year. For this response, more paperwork is needed to comply with what the USDOE is requesting. The second area for Kentucky is substantive and relates to the alternate assessment. The current alternate portfolio is not acceptable to USDOE and they have asked for us to redesign it. The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) is in the process of doing the redesign and the good news is that almost all states are in the same boat for this particular item. KDE will come back to the Board with the new design on the alternate portfolio. The result of questions by USDOE in these areas resulted in the directive to redirect Title I funds. State administrative funds will be diverted from the KDE to local districts. However, KDE already sends on more to the locals than is required, so the impact will not be substantial.

Concern was expressed by some Board members about the need to comply with the directive from USDOE and that it not be just a minimal compliance but meet student needs. It was expressed that it is good for tension to occur between the state and federal level because when tension occurs growth happens.

- The latest Southern Regional Education Board Report on Kentucky was mailed to each Board member. The 16 states making up this region have shown dramatic improvement, and Kentucky is still working on the areas where improvement is still needed.
- Four districts took teams to Harvard along with a state team in order to focus on leadership. From this conference, we are going to add some new language to the strategic plan. Harvard is going to stay with us on the project for three years. The goal is to have leadership be more effective and to support them in their work.

## ***ELECTION OF KBE OFFICERS***

Nominating Committee Chair David Rhodes reported that the committee met first on June 27 and met again this morning to finalize the recommendations to the Board for

chair and vice chair. He thanked everyone that served on the committee as follows: C.B. Akins, Janna Vice and Judy Gibbons. At this point, he moved that Keith Travis be approved as chair of the Board and Bonnie Lash Freeman as vice chair. C.B. Akins seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

### ***GOOD NEWS FROM SCHOOLS/DISTRICTS***

The following items of good news were shared by the Board members as noted below:

David Webb – A \$15,000 grant from the U.S. Conference of Mayors will provide personal finance information for all sophomores at high schools in the Bowling Green and Warren County school districts. The grant will enable students to participate in Junior Achievement’s personal finance curriculum, which covers income, money management, spending, credit, savings and investing. The grant will be administered by Bowling Green’s DollarWise Campaign. This is a great business/school partnership effort!

Judy Gibbons – In June, two Kentucky high schools joined forty-two others across the nation as recipients of the “High Schools That Work” Gold Award of Educational Achievement. Daviess County High and Highlands High in Fort Thomas were Kentucky’s winners. “High Schools That Work” is a program of the Southern Regional Education Board and combines academics and technical education. To earn the award, 50% or more of students in the program must achieve high scores in math, science, reading and technical courses. At Daviess County High, 68% did so and at Highlands High, 74% achieved this. Congratulations to these two high schools!

C.B. Akins – Through a \$4.6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Kentucky Educational Television and the Kentucky Department of Education will develop an on-line professional development program for teachers called E-Learning for Educators. Kentucky is one of nine states partnering with Alabama Public Television to develop professional development offerings on-line. The professional development courses will be specifically tied to the needs of Kentucky schools and educators. We applaud this cooperative effort!

Bonnie Lash Freeman – Four Kentucky school districts have been accepted into the Executive Leadership Program for Educators at Harvard Business School. Boone, Daviess, Jefferson and Kenton Counties are among only sixteen districts in the United States to be selected for the program, which will provide school district personnel with resources and face-to-face communication for four years. The program is designed to improve the leadership capacity of school districts. Congratulations to these school districts on this honor and we applaud the opportunity for growth that this provides!

Keith Travis – Congratulations to our own Commissioner Gene Wilhoit, who is the recipient of the Kentucky Association of School Administrator’s (KASA) 2006 William T. Nallia Award. KASA Board of Directors present the Nallia Award annually to an education leader who reflects a spirit of innovation and cutting edge leadership while

bringing higher levels of success in learning to all children. We are proud of you, Gene, for this achievement!

***APPEARANCE OF REVEREND LOUIS COLEMAN***

Reverend Louis Coleman and Mr. Lonnie Winston appeared before the Board to make a plea for assistance to Mr. Winston to find a teaching position. Mr. Winston's contract had not been renewed by the Simpson County School District and Reverend Coleman asked that the Board look into the matter and provide any assistance that it could to Mr. Winston in securing employment.

Chair Travis assured Reverend Coleman that the situation would be examined.

***703 KAR 5:020, THE FORMULA FOR DETERMINING SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY (EMERGENCY AND ORDINARY VERSIONS OF THE REGULATION)***

Deputy Commissioner Kevin Noland explained the following regarding the proposed revisions to 703 KAR 5:020:

- This is a procedural matter that is described in the staff note.
- For the last three years, the United States Department of Education (USDOE) has offered some flexibility options for implementing the *No Child Left Behind Act*.
- This year all states for the first time had to assess math and reading in grades 3 through 8. In the past, Kentucky assessed in math and reading but not at every grade level in grades 3 through 8.
- This year the Kentucky Board of Education had approved Kentucky's use of an augmented reading and mathematics test at the grade levels where they previously did not test in that grade range.
- USDOE recognized that states needed trend data for accountability purposes and knew that we would only have one year of data since these augmented assessments were only used this year. Thus, USDOE indicated it would allow states to go back two years and only apply the math and reading data in the grades where the trend data was available.
- This approach is known at the federal level as utilizing the Wellstone Amendment.
- So, next year, Kentucky will compute accountability differently because we will have two years of data using grades 3 through 8 in reading and mathematics for the Kentucky Core Content Test.

- This is a one-time type of approval for this transition year. In April, this Board approved applying the Wellstone Amendment and then the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) requested the USDOE to approve applying the Wellstone Amendment to the 2006 spring assessment scores.
- Last year, KDE assured the legislative committee that reviews this kind of regulatory amendments that we would do so by emergency regulation so that the change could become effective by the time we issue assessment results.
- The Board is being asked to approve and reaffirm what it approved in April and if it does so, the emergency regulation would be filed later today with the appropriate legislative committee.

Chair Keith Travis asked if there were questions regarding amendments to this regulation. At this point, Doug Hubbard moved to adopt the changes as recommended by staff and Bonnie Lash Freeman seconded the motion.

Joe Brothers asked why the change to score on-demand versus the portfolio differently did not appear in this regulation.

Associate Commissioner Pam Rogers responded that the change related to scoring is not part of today's approval because we are only dealing with this one emergency provision.

Deputy Commissioner Kevin Noland went on to explain that the next item on the Board agenda will allow discussion of other accountability changes and that these will be coming forward in the form of regulation changes in the future.

Brothers went on to ask if the Department is sure this change is acceptable.

Associate Commissioner Rogers indicated that the Department had received written approval from the USDOE to implement this change.

The question was called and the motion carried.

### ***REVISIONS TO THE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM***

Coming forward for this presentation were Deputy Commissioner Linda France, Associate Commissioner Pam Rogers, and Division Director Rhonda Sims. Sims and Rogers presented a PowerPoint summarizing possible changes to the accountability system as follows:

- The changes to the accountability system will include the academic index (student performance in seven content areas of the Kentucky Core Content Test), the nonacademic index (attendance, retention, dropout and transition to adult life) and the NRT index (student performance in reading and mathematics on a norm-referenced test).

- Changes that could impact accountability include additional grades tested in reading (3, 5, 6, 8) and mathematics (3, 4, 6); a different schedule for giving the norm-referenced test (the CTBS could be given at 6th grade only, could be optional at 3rd grade, and/or not scheduled at 9<sup>th</sup> grade); the inclusion of predictive, readiness measures such as EXPLORE at 8<sup>th</sup> grade, PLAN at 10<sup>th</sup> grade and ACT at 11<sup>th</sup> grade (beginning in 2007-2008); and the requirement for an Individual Learning Plan in grades 6-12.
- Policy questions that were presented for the Board to consider were: a) How should the ACT and other readiness exams be included within the academic index, nonacademic index and/or NRT index, and b) Should the Kentucky Department of Education propose transitions to grow the system and implement change over time?
- Legal parameters were presented to the Board for consideration including Kentucky Statute 158.6453, federal *No Child Left Behind* requirements and Senate Bill 130 requirements.
- Additional policy questions regarding the academic index were presented as follows: a) Should all content areas maintain a similar emphasis in the accountability calculation?, b) Should the percentage of the accountability index derived from reading and mathematics at elementary and middle school increase due to annual testing in grades 3-8?, and c) Should ACT reading, mathematics and science items aligned to Kentucky's Core Content for Assessment contribute to results in content areas?
- Legal parameters from Kentucky Statute 158.6453 and the federal *No Child Left Behind Act* were highlighted for the Board to consider relative to these questions.
- Relative to the nonacademic index, policy questions posed to the Board included: a) Should measures and data collection processes for the nonacademic factors be modified?, b) Should the Individual Learning Plan be used to capture nonacademic data?, c) Should ACT and WorkKeys postsecondary benchmarks be used as measures of transition to adult life?, and d) Should the weighting of the statutory, nonacademic factors be changed (attendance, retention, dropout rate and transition to adult life)?
- Legal parameters from KRS 158.6453, the federal *No Child Left Behind Act* requirements and Senate Bill 130 were discussed relative to these policy questions.
- Regarding the NRT index, the following policy questions were presented: a) Should a norm-referenced test that provides national comparisons be included in the accountability calculations at every school level?, b) Should the grade 6 norm-referenced test (CTBS) in reading and mathematics be included in the elementary accountability?, and c) Should the grade 8, 10 and 11 readiness assessments



(EXPLORE, PLAN, ACT) be included in the appropriate middle and high school accountability?

- Possible options for inclusion of the ACT were presented for consideration as follows: a) Within the academic index, ACT items in reading, mathematics and science that measure Kentucky's standards could contribute to results in content areas, b) In the nonacademic index the addition of ACT and WorkKeys postsecondary benchmarks to transition to adult life could be considered, and c) For the NRT index the addition of ACT composite results could be applied to the NRT index.
- Tasks were then summarized that must be completed in order to have a combined Kentucky Core Content Test/ACT approach as follows: a) Senate Bill 130 requires periodic studies comparing Kentucky's Core Content for Assessment to concepts/content measured by EXPLORE, PLAN and ACT, b) USDOE requires an independent alignment process that includes content and cognitive demand, c) USDOE must approve standards, assessments and technical adequacy of the assessment and accountability as part of the *No Child Left Behind Act* compliance, d) If it is determined that the ACT assessments provide a direct measure of Kentucky's Core Content standards and concepts, the number of questions on KCCT may be reduced upon advice of stakeholder and technical groups, e) The Department shall continue to administer the Kentucky Core Content Test and include open-response or multiple choice items, or both, that assess student knowledge in reading, mathematics and science to the degree necessary for adequate coverage of the core content and to meet *No Child Left Behind Act* requirements, f) Resolve psychometric questions so that a measurement scale can be created that reflects a combination of ACT and Kentucky Core Content items and technical advice can be accessed on reporting and linking the current system to the new system as changes occur, and g) Test administration issues and accommodations must be reconciled between the ACT and Kentucky Core Content Test in order to assure participation of all students.
- The tasks that must be completed for inclusion of the Individual Learning Plan were summarized as: a) ILP components must be connected to the measurement of transition to adult life, b) A scoring system must be created to evaluate the Individual Learning Plan implementation, and c) A data collection process must be developed regarding the implementation of the Individual Learning Plan.
- The PowerPoint then moved to options for each of the three areas (academic index, nonacademic index and NRT index, by level). Beginning with the elementary school, in the academic index the options included:
  - Maintain the focus on all content areas by keeping the same relative emphasis.
  - Increase the weight of reading and mathematics.
  - Simplify weights to whole numbers.

- Reflect the earlier KDE decision to rate equally the writing portfolio and on-demand writing components.
- Include a measure of growth using grade-to-grade assessments in reading and mathematics (3-8) when longitudinal data is cumulated.
- For the elementary level in the nonacademic index area, the options included:
  - Change the total weight of the nonacademic index.
  - Change the distribution of weights within the index.
  - Change the measure for retention to capture the number of years students spend in the elementary program, i.e., progression rate.
  - Set benchmarks for individual student attendance.
- For the NRT index at the elementary level, the options presented were:
  - Use the sixth grade NRT (CTBS) linked back to the elementary school.
  - Redistribute the 5% from the norm-referenced index equally to reading and mathematics.
  - Redistribute the 5% from the norm-referenced index to science, social studies, writing, arts and humanities, and practical living/vocational studies.
- For the middle school level, the options for the academic index included:
  - Maintain the focus on all content areas by keeping the same relative weight emphasis.
  - Increase the weight of reading and mathematics.
  - Simplify weights to whole numbers.
  - Reflect the earlier KBE decision to weight equally writing portfolio and on-demand writing components.
  - Include a measure of growth grade-to-grade assessments in reading and mathematics (3-8) when longitudinal data is cumulated.
- For the nonacademic index at the middle school level, the options presented were:
  - Change the total weight of the nonacademic index.

- Change the distribution of weights within the index.
- Change the measure for retention to capture the number of years students spend in the elementary program, i.e., progression rate.
- Set benchmarks for individual student attendance.
- Relative to the NRT index at middle school, the options presented were:
  - Include CTBS at the sixth grade.
  - Include EXPLORE at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
  - Include both CTBS and EXPLORE.
  - Do not include an NRT index and either redistribute the 5% to reading and mathematics or redistribute the 5% to all seven content areas.
  - Administer CTBS but do not include it in accountability.
  - Do not administer the CTBS.
- For the high school level in the academic index, the options presented were:
  - Maintain the focus on all content areas by keeping the same relative emphasis.
  - Utilize items from the ACT and KCCT to calculate scores for reading, mathematics, science and possibly writing.
  - Simplify weights to whole numbers.
  - Reflect the earlier KBE decision to weight equally the writing portfolio and on-demand writing components.
- At high school in the nonacademic index area, the options presented were:
  - Change the total weight of the nonacademic index.
  - Change the distribution of weights within the index.
  - Change the measure of successful transition to adult life to include the ACT postsecondary placement policy benchmarks and WorkKeys Kentucky Employability Certificate.
  - Use graduation rate to capture both dropout and retention.
- At the high school level for the NRT index, the options presented were:

- Include the 10<sup>th</sup> grade PLAN.
- Include the 11<sup>th</sup> grade ACT composite score.
- Combine ACT and PLAN data with national comparisons against norms.

At this point, the Board was asked to express its input relative to the options presented and the following comments were made:

- Parents want to know how their students are doing and the longitudinal (growth) measure is very important for this purpose. It is very important to assess the performance of the class and its performance thereafter.
- Staff needs to break out the testing time per grade level for the Board as a follow-up item as well as a schedule as to when each of the tests will be given.
- Some members felt that reading and math plus writing should be rated more. Other members felt it should just be reading and math.
- Some members felt that reading and math needed to be weighted more than 38%. Others felt that perhaps math should be weighted more since Kentucky's reading scores are higher than the mathematics scores.
- Some members disagreed with paring down the nonacademic weight because the work ethic starts in first grade.

Keith Travis indicated that at the September meeting, the Board would need to get more specific with its input and give direction to staff for developing regulatory language.

#### ***PRESENTATION OF THE DR. SAMUEL ROBINSON AWARD***

The presentation of the Dr. Samuel Robinson Award was made to Dr. Marlene Helm and Representative Frank Rasche. Dr. Samuel Robinson was present for the award presentation as well as guests of both award recipients. Following the presentation, a luncheon was held in the award recipients' honor.

#### ***UPDATE FROM MEASURED PROGRESS ON THE WORK TO PRODUCE THE 2006-07 ASSESSMENT***

Tim Crockett, Vice President of Measured Progress, came forward to present this update and shared the following points:

- Greetings come from Stewart Call, President of Measured Progress, who wanted to be here today but is in Colorado working with the Council of Chief State School Officers on an advisory panel.

- Mr. Crockett's background was stated to be as a teacher, principal, local board member and State Testing Director in the State Department of Education in Maine.
- Measured Progress was founded in 1983 as Advanced Systems in Measurement and Evaluation.
- In 2000, the company changed its name to Measured Progress and changed its tax status to a 501 C3, not-for-profit organization housed in Dover, New Hampshire. Today it has 350 employees.
- The company just opened two new facilities in Dover, a processing facility and an office, and also has warehousing in Rochester, a scoring center in Albany, New York and another scoring center in Colorado.
- As an educator, Crockett noted that he was proud to work for Measured Progress because it is a company whose senior management is made up primarily of teachers. The company likes to believe it is well grounded in instructional practice and wants to earn the Board's and Kentucky educators' trust and confidence.
- The Board needs to know that Kentucky was also selected by Measured Progress because it strongly believes in engaging states that are of the same mindset that assessment is a vehicle through which what we do for students can be improved.
- Measured Progress is currently working in general assessment programs in ten states and has contracts to run alternate assessment programs in 14 states.
- The company has grown dramatically over the last twenty years but feels it is deliberate, reasonable growth that has produced the ability to deliver what the company says it can, consistent with what it actually does. Measured Progress tests millions and millions of students each year with a good track record, particularly over the last three to four years.
- The company has two subcontractors on the Kentucky project. One of these is the Collaborative for Teaching and Learning in Louisville that will work on the writing portfolio in terms of teacher training and collection of information. The other is WestEd out of San Francisco, California that has been working in Kentucky for a number of years. WestEd will continue to do development of items and construction of test forms for all of the content areas except for on-demand writing, which Measured Progress will handle.
- Measured Progress feels it has brought a strong team to the table to meet the Department's and Board's expectations. In addition to the contract work here in Kentucky, the company has brought its A-team to the table who has over 35 years

of experience in project management. Measured Progress wants to get it right the first time and is committed to doing so.

- It became apparent to the company when it looked at the scope of work, it was important to locate a facility here in the state. Yesterday morning, a lease was signed for a facility in Louisville to house a scoring center, a distribution center and office staff. Also, tentative plans were made to close the Colorado site and bring more work to Kentucky. Over the coming months, leadership for the Kentucky office will be identified and they will be brought to Dover this fall for a residence to prepare them for the processing of Kentucky's results next spring. It is anticipated that 400-500 temporary employees and 150 distribution center employees will be hired. Over time the transition will be made from temporary employees to more and more full-time employees.
- The agreement was made with the Commissioner that when Kentucky materials are being processed, nothing else will be handled within the Kentucky site. At other times of the year, work from other states will be brought in.
- Measured Progress will be hiring an in-state program manager and will work with the Kentucky Department of Education to identify such a person in the next couple of months.
- As far as the status of work to date, the following has or will occur:
  - Due to changes in the core content, there were shortages of items in some content areas; thus, a field test was done in April to fill in the holes. The schools were very cooperative in accomplishing this task.
  - Measured Progress is now preparing for a large-scale field test for writing to occur in September for grades 5 and 8. The large number of writing prompts and other items that are part of the new writing design will be field-tested.
  - In November, the first administration of the 12<sup>th</sup> grade writing test will occur consisting of the operational piece for accountability and a field test of some items for grade 12.
  - In the spring, the first full implementation of the Kentucky Core Content Assessment will occur.

***UPDATE ON PROGRAM, SERVICES AND OPERATIONS AT THE KENTUCKY SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND (KSB) AND KENTUCKY SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF (KSD)***

Chair Keith Travis welcomed the representatives from the Kentucky School for the Blind and the Kentucky School for the Deaf in the audience as well as Department of Education staff who work with the two schools. He pointed out that the Kentucky Board of Education is the board of directors for these two schools and that some time ago, former

Board member Martha Dell Sanders challenged the Board about the degree of oversight and support it was providing for the schools. He said that since then, the Board and Department staff have engaged in a number of activities and even formed a KSB/KSD subcommittee. In the future, Travis noted, the Management Committee would be asked to assume the responsibility for overseeing the important work of these two schools as part of its agenda.

Deputy Commissioner Linda France then explained that the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) and the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) are unique among other Kentucky schools because wrapped around their academic programs are residential and day programs. Additionally, she indicated that the schools are responsible for the students identified in these exceptionalities statewide, which requires a tremendous amount of work in the outreach area. She confirmed that these are the only two schools where the Kentucky Board of Education has a direct responsibility for their operation and academic program and clarified these schools are considered as divisions within the Kentucky Department of Education. France then asked Associate Commissioner Johnnie Grissom to introduce key people from each school to the Board.

Associate Commissioner Grissom introduced the following staff at the state level who work with both schools:

- Barb Kibler, Division Director over both schools and head of the state team
- Bill Stearns, led the facilities planning processes and is a state team member
- Wilton McMillan, state team member
- Robin Hobson, interpreter and consultant for interpreters statewide
- Larry Conner, state team member and staff at KSD

Grissom then introduced staff from the schools that work with state team as follows:

- John Roberts, KSB principal
- Kathy Jones, KSB campus manager
- Kathy Johnson, KSB outreach manager
- Betty Fox, KSB highly skilled educator
- Jackie Day, KSD principal
- Bill Melton, KSD campus manager
- Fran Hardin, KSD outreach manager

- Penny Moore, KSD highly skilled educator
- Mary Sehrenbach, interpreter
- Archie Harris, KSD teacher
- Byron Wilson, KSD teacher
- Virginia Moore, Kentucky Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Grissom noted that the staff making up the team do a wonderful job and then asked Barb Kibler to talk a little about the achievement of students and the initiatives that are being implemented. She emphasized that staff is responsible to meet the needs of students and make sure the programs on both campuses are of high quality. Grissom went on to say that staff is also responsible to prepare teachers who work with these students and support parents. She pointed out that there are around 800 deaf/hard of hearing students and around 600 blind/visually impaired students statewide.

Division Director Barb Kibler began by saying the information in the staff note was an attempt to give the Board background information and a summary of initiatives. She said she did not want to repeat it and instead will highlight a few things with the addition of some information. Her report consisted of the following points:

- All of the current work got started a few years ago by getting as much input as possible from stakeholders across the state. A few things resulted that staff is making sure are addressed including having a high quality center-based program, serving as a statewide resource for students, teachers, parents and school districts, and implementing an increased emphasis on early intervention services. Kibler shared that just recently Fran Hardin from KSD started working with western Kentucky districts to develop a collaborative preschool classroom.
- At both schools the number of students served remains fairly constant; the focus is on literacy in all grades and in all content areas; emphasis on teaching of mathematics through different methods is ongoing; a mentoring program matching a staff person with each student throughout the year has been implemented; more integrated, interdisciplinary courses to match learning styles and instructional methods with content are being used; neighboring school districts are coordinating with the schools to provide broader course offerings to students; the resource center/outreach approach has expanded and grown over the last few years; and consultants from both schools are matched up with each special education cooperative across the state and meet with district teachers and coop directors on a regular basis.
- Kathy Johnson from the Kentucky School for the Blind in conjunction with the Big East Cooperative, Morehead State University, the Office of the Blind and the



University of Louisville set up a week-long program at Morehead for juniors to spend time on campus and see what the college experience is like. They hope to expand this idea to other parts of the state.

- We have increased the quality and outreach of the parent information centers at both schools for both parents of students on campus and those that are in local school districts.
- The materials resource center at KSB is actually a depository of instructional materials used across the state for Braille and large print. It serves as a lending library and saves districts significant dollars.
- At KSD, a certified teacher staffs the materials resource center and collects/distributes materials needed by the instructors of deaf/hard of hearing students.

Discussion about the two schools included the following:

- Question: Did the schools apply for the math grants and if so, were they awarded to the schools? Response: Both schools applied but were not funded due to the large number of schools applying and only 45 grants being issued. Another round will be issued in the fall and the schools can again be considered then.
- Question: Why did the academic index decline at KSD from 2004-2005? Response: The scores at both schools can be misleading because the enrollment is so small the score can reflect one or two students in a grade. It is different when you have many students being tested.
- Question: Do we have data to know how the students who are placed in districts across the state are doing as compared to those in the two residential schools? Response: Once we have the individual student identifier we will be able to track this on a regular basis.

Next, Bill Stearns spoke about the facilities process that occurred at both schools and made the following points:

- In October 2003 the Board's discussion turned to whether we had the facilities needed at the schools to support their roles. As a result, the Commissioner and Board decided each school should form a facilities planning committee that is similar to what is used in local districts.
- Following the October 2003 meeting, the facilities planning committees were formed at both schools. At KSB an array for folks including elected officials, advocacy group representatives and one Kentucky Board of Education member were included and at KSD a similar committee was formed absent elected officials.

- Mark Ryles, KDE Division Director of Facilities Management, assisted by Tim Lucas, managed the facilities planning process for both schools for over a year.
- The committees started meeting in January of 2004 and their work culminated in a presentation to the Kentucky Board of Education in December of 2004, where they laid out the facilities needs at each school including costs.
- A lot of wonderful input and good will was gained from the facilities planning processes that is still paying off and has spilled over into other initiatives.
- Good plans for the schools exist but the current question is how to fund them. Tom Engstrom and Robin Kinney will come forward to explain how the Department is pursuing those plans and their funding.

### ***THE STATE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY AT THE KENTUCKY SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF***

Commissioner Wilhoit explained that when the Board started looking at the two schools, they found two very different situations. At KSB, he noted that a very compact campus existed with the need for upgrades. However, at KSD, Wilhoit explained, the campus was older, had abandoned structures with some new structures being built, exhibited a lot of space with students spread out over a large area presenting a security concern and raised issues on conditions of the buildings. The Commissioner said that facilities improvement programs for each school now exist but commented the one at KSB is not as expensive as the one for KSD. Thus, today, he indicated that staff would be focusing on KSD because there are more issues at play needed to modernize the campus and make it functional.

Deputy Commissioner Kevin Noland then stated that the Department had hoped to get modernization funds from the General Assembly because it would be nice for the community to see renovations occur before the selling of surplus property. However, he clarified that efforts to secure funding were not successful and therefore, that is the reason staff has come to the Board today because the Board has the authority to pass a motion to sell surplus property at the school. Noland said that the good news is that 80% of the students who are deaf/hard of hearing are able to stay at home and receive services; however, the impact on the Kentucky School for the Deaf is that less students need to reside on the campus making less of a need for the total campus buildings to exist as part of the school. Noland explained that keeping all of the unused buildings safe and up-to-date plus paying the utilities presents a financial drain on the school's budget. He then pointed the Board to page 82 in the Agenda Book, paragraph 3, that talks about the proposal staff is making today. He indicated staff wants to accomplish having the funds available to do needed renovations and construction so that the programs and services for KSD students can be improved. Normally, Noland said, an agency would not be excited about surplus property because when this occurs, the dollars go to the general fund. However, he explained Department staff was successful in getting budget bill language

passed by the General Assembly that allows the dollars from the sale of surplus property to be kept at the school for the benefit of the students.

Division Director Tom Engstrom then showed the Board an aerial photograph of the KSD campus and indicated the dotted sections reflected the revised, consolidated KSD campus that resulted from the facilities planning process. He clarified that the existing campus would be reduced to about 40% of its current size once all of the unneeded property was surplus.

Chair Keith Travis clarified that Jacob's Hall is a very historic building that we want to preserve because of its part in the history of deaf education. He said that the Board would not be asked to sell Jacob's Hall but would look at options for preserving it.

Joe Brothers asked staff to clarify what the Board would be asked to approve for sale.

Tom Engstrom replied that there are 196 acres on the campus and once all surplus property is divested, 80 acres would remain. However, he clarified that staff is asking to begin with the sale of a ½-acre setting.

Commissioner Wilhoit stated that the reason the staff is asking for a minimal commitment is that the ability to move on meeting the needs of the elementary age students cannot occur until an appropriation from the legislature is received. He emphasized that a major appropriation is needed from the next legislative session and thus the Department needs to show a good faith effort in supplying a part of the funds needed for the renovation/construction.

Tom Engstrom added that the surplus property sale would provide seed money to address facility needs and hopefully encourage the General Assembly to commit more dollars to the capital needs of the school.

Associate Commissioner Robin Kinney summarized that the request before the Board today is to be able to start pursuing the sale of the small ½-acre tract to begin the surplus property process. She explained that it takes time in state government to complete this process, which is dictated by statutes. She emphasized that it is not the intent to sell Jacob's Hall. Kinney went on to say that staff would like to be able when they go back to the General Assembly for a funding request to show that the Department is trying to have at least a portion of the money needed for improvements available through the sale of surplus property.

Doug Hubbard inquired what the dollars from selling this property would be applied toward.

Robin Kinney responded that the money will come back to the school and it is the Department's hope to use it toward renovation.

Hubbard then asked if there was an order established for divesting the school of the surplus property.

Kevin Noland replied that the Department would like to have approval to sell the property that is not included in the new campus, but assured the Board that staff would come back to them with the details of each sale.

At this point Janna Vice moved to grant the Department's approval to sell the first two items at KSD and general overall approval of the surplus property plan contingent upon coming back to the Board before further action or sale of property is taken.

After further discussion it was requested that a clause be added to the motion that the funds resulting from the sale of surplus property go for capital projects at KSD. This was added to the motion with Joe Brothers seconding it and the motion carried.

### ***HEARING OFFICER'S REPORT***

Deputy Commissioner Kevin Noland reported that the Board had received an appeal to an annexation decision made by Commissioner Wilhoit involving the Calloway County and Murray Independent districts. He indicated that the Board had the option to hear the appeal as a full Board, as a panel of the Board or have a hearing officer handle the appeal and make a recommendation to the Board for action. Noland commented that this appeal could last a full day or more.

Doug Hubbard asked if the option using a hearing officer would include the receipt of a transcript.

Noland replied that a transcript would be received if it is requested in advance.

Chair Keith Travis then noted that he would recuse himself from the hearing and the decision.

Doug Hubbard went on to say that in his opinion it is a far better use of the Board's time to have a hearing officer if a transcript comes to the Board along with the exhibits. He then moved to use a hearing officer for the purpose of this appeal with the provision that the Board is supplied a transcript and exhibits. Kaye Baird seconded the motion and it carried.

Deputy Commissioner Noland then moved on to another topic involving the Board's previous amendment to the minimum high school graduation requirements regulation. He reminded Board members that the Board amended 704 KAR 3:305 at its February meeting and made subsequent changes in April due to comments from the public hearing. Since then, Noland reported, concerns have continued to be raised regarding potential effects on some students with disabilities. He said that as a result of a June 6, 2006, meeting between Kentucky Department of Education staff and representatives of KYCASE and KYCEC, agreed upon language changes to 704 KAR 3:305 were reached that are reflected in the revised version of the regulation received by the Board. Noland summarized that the changes involved the following issues:

- Clarifying that an occupational course as well as a career/technical course is an option and an alternative and does not have to be sent to the Kentucky Department of Education.
- Noting that special education students may take substitute courses (eliminated modified assessment language).
- Clarifying that the certificate program for severe students is not tied to the Workforce/Community College Work Readiness or Employability Requirements.

Noland then asked the Board to approve the additional changes to the regulation via a motion so it can go back before the administrative regulation review subcommittee.

David Rhodes moved to accept the additional changes and David Webb seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### ***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

Prior to the meeting of the Management Committee, Chair Keith Travis made the following announcements:

- The Management Committee will meet next from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. here in the State Board Room.
- Tonight, the Board will meet at 7:00 p.m. in closed session in the Planning Room here on the first floor to discuss the Commissioner's evaluation. It will be a working dinner and no action will be taken during the closed session.
- Tomorrow morning, the Board will have breakfast in the Seminar Room at the Capital Plaza Hotel from 7:45 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. with staff from KSBA, KASS, KASA and Jefferson County. No business will be conducted.
- The Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Committee will convene in the morning at 9:00 a.m. in the State Board Room.
- The full Board will convene tomorrow at 10:45 a.m. in the State Board Room.

### ***MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING***

#### **Action/Consent Items**

1. **District Facility Plans: Cumberland, Hart and Scott Counties.** Chair David Webb indicated that the facility plans submitted by Cumberland, Hart and Scott Counties were routine in nature and asked for their approval. Joe Brothers moved to approve all of the submitted plans and David Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion carried.

## **Action/Discussion Items**

1. **FY2007 Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS) Expenditure Plan.** Associate Commissioner David Couch pointed out the funding sources for the FY2007 KETS budget on page 101 and the other funding sources that can go toward the KETS unmet need on page 102. He emphasized that this year we have good news in that there was a substantial funding increase to go toward the unmet need from the General Assembly. Couch reminded the Board that the state has some catch up to do from Phase II of KETS that showed about \$300 million of unmet need and noted that this year about \$120 million is added to that unmet need for a total of \$420 million. He stated that there will be about \$162 million available to go toward this \$420 million of unmet need. Couch explained that the reason the Board gets involved in this matter is to make sure the Department is not giving out more funds than districts have in an amount of unmet need. He clarified that for the KETS sources of funds for FY2007, about \$28.5 million in both state and federal dollars will be available. In the other funding category sources, Couch stated that the following dollars are available: a) \$11.2 million of local district funds that are used to equally match the KETS offers of assistance, b) federal *No Child Left Behind* technology funds of \$3.5 million per year, c) \$20 million of federal E-Rate funds that districts apply for, d) state school facility construction funds for new construction or renovation at about \$10 million, e) approximately \$50 million for workstations, and f) \$29 million for the high speed network, and g) \$10 million for the next generation school information system. He summarized that if you add all the sources together it will equal approximately \$162 million. Couch indicated that the Board is being asked to approve the expenditure plan and asked if there were any questions.

David Webb inquired how much money will be spent on technology this year by school districts.

Couch responded that districts could spend the entire \$162 million but explained that the \$50 million available for workstations could be split over more than one year.

Joe Brothers asked how accurate the unmet need calculations are that come from school districts.

David Couch replied that he felt these calculations were fairly accurate because the Department works with the Gartner Group to come up with these calculations. He went on to say that districts complete a readiness survey in order to make the calculations.

At this point Joe Brothers moved approval of the KETS expenditure plan and Jeanne Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2. **Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS) FY2007 Unmet Need for LEAs.** Associate Commissioner David Couch explained that in the last agenda item the committee identified the funding sources for the Kentucky Education Technology System, approved the budget and now is being asked to approve the unmet need from school districts that the Department has identified. He said that according to what districts turned in over the last six years, technology has been under-funded by over \$300 million. Couch went on to say that staff has calculated what is estimated to be this year's unmet need at \$120 million making a total of \$420 million of unmet need. He emphasized that he wanted to make sure the Board understands the intent is to make sure that the Department does not give out more dollars than the total amount of unmet net. Couch pointed out that \$162 million exists to distribute toward a \$420 million unmet need.

At this point, David Rhodes moved approval of the unmet need and Joe Brothers seconded the motion. The motion carried.

3. **702 KAR 5:010, Pupil transportation; technical assistance and monitoring (Final).** Chair Webb explained that this regulation was discussed at the last meeting and staff assured the committee no further changes had been made. Thus, David Rhodes moved final approval of 702 KAR 5:010 and Jeanne Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

4. **702 KAR 6:100, Appeal procedures for sponsors of child nutrition programs (Final).** Division Director Paul McElwain reminded the Board staff is asking to amend this regulation to give districts another reason for appeal and also to make a technical change to reflect the current name of the Nutrition and Health Services Division. David Rhodes moved final approval of 702 KAR 6:100 and Jeanne Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

5. **Declaration of Emergency in Leslie County.** Associate Commissioner Kyna Koch asked the committee to defer action on the declaration of emergency for Leslie County because the latest information received by the Department is that they have a positive fund balance, even though it is less than the 2% contingency. For now, she said, they will be placed on the watch list; however, at a future meeting, if information comes forward showing the district will be in deficit, staff will come back to the Board again and ask for a declaration of emergency.

Chair Webb asked Ms. Koch if there is any mechanism for action against a district when they don't file a BG-1.

Associate Commissioner Koch went on to explain that in Leslie County the situation is particularly troubling because they purchased the Nixon Center for \$180,000 to be used as a gym for middle school and high school, which was approved by the Department. However, she noted that after the purchase, the

district spent \$300,000 on renovation to the facility without filing a BG-1 and also spent \$180,000 on paving projects with no BG-1 being filed. She stated there is no actual penalty for not filing a BG-1. Koch emphasized that the Department has never had such a blatant situation of ignoring requirements. She went on to say that at a future meeting, she would have a discussion on how to possibly prevent a situation such as this from occurring. Koch reported that the new superintendent is aware of the inappropriateness of what happened and has assured the Department that it will not occur again. She stated that a management assistance person is in the district.

### **Review Items**

1. **Identification of District Watch List.** Associate Commissioner Koch went on to say that there are more districts on the watch list than in the past. She listed the districts to be Adair, Clark, Jackson and Leslie Counties and Jackson, Ludlow and Frankfort Independents. Koch noted that this is the fifth year that Jackson County has been on the watch list. She said that Jackson Independent is working very hard to get out of this situation.

Chair Webb requested that the committee review the construction process over the next few months.

Associate Commissioner Koch replied that the entire process would be coming to the committee over the next few months due to the recommendations that will be coming forward from the Task Force on School Facilities.

2. **Issues Facing Multi-District Counties.** Coming forward for this presentation and discussion were Dr. Blake Haselton, Executive Director of the Kentucky Association of School Superintendents; Dr. H.M. Snodgrass, former superintendent of the Harrodsburg Independent School District; Bruce Johnson, superintendent of the Mercer County School District; Tom Shelton, superintendent of the Daviess County School District; and, Dr. Larry Vick, superintendent of the Owensboro Independent School District. The purpose of this discussion was to look at ways that county and independent school districts can work together where they exist within the same county.

Dr. Snodgrass and Mr. Johnson first talked about the successful merger of the Harrodsburg Independent and Mercer County school districts. Key points made during their presentation were:

- Both superintendents worked together to look at the pros and cons of the merger.
- It was the right time and place within the community for the merger to take place.



- Mercer County was preparing to build a new high school.
- A lot of groundwork was done prior to the vote of the local boards in gathering data and getting input from the community.
- Public forums were held which were key in getting buy-in from citizens.
- Up front staff in both districts were assured that nobody would lose their job due to the merger.
- Harrodsburg Independent was in good financial shape and the county people felt they were able to pay their way for the new classrooms that would be necessary to accommodate new students.

At this point, Dr. Blake Haselton, Executive Director of the Kentucky Association for School Superintendents, made the following comments:

- There are 175 districts in Kentucky with 120 of them being county districts and 55 being independent districts.
- Forty multi-district counties exist consisting of 95 schools.
- The staff note outlines a number of issues that districts are facing in multi-district counties.
- In the area of student achievement, the highest and lowest scoring districts are independent districts.
- Seven of the top twelve districts in student achievement are independent districts.
- Six of the bottom twelve districts relative to student achievement are independent districts.
- Five of the six in the bottom scoring districts have an average daily attendance of less than 400 students.
- The top scoring school in the state has an average daily attendance of 409.
- Regarding financial resources, nine of the twelve top ranked districts by receipts are independent districts.
- Three of the twelve lowest ranked districts by receipts are independent districts.

- Both the highest and lowest ranked districts by receipts are independent districts.
- The above points are raised to point out that all 175 districts are unique and it is hard to make generalizations that apply only to independent or county districts.
- Regardless of whether a district is a county or independent district, it should be accountable for student achievement.
- Today's presentation focuses on success stories.

Tom Shelton and Dr. Larry Vick then spoke to the relationship between their two districts. Key points made by the two superintendents included:

- The way the two districts work together is very positive and focuses on meeting the needs of students.
- The academic achievement of both districts speaks for itself and is an emphasis in each district.
- The two districts have an open enrollment policy between them.

Dr. Haselton concluded the presentation by summarizing the relationship between the districts emphasizes the need to give local control to them to decide what is best in their communities. He emphasized that these two districts make the decisions based on what's best for students. Haselton said that local control is necessary but additionally people have to be held accountable for their decisions. He emphasized that one size does not fit all for each multi-district county situation.

**Thursday, August 3, 2006**

## ***CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE MEETING***

### **Action/Consent Items**

1. **Appointment to the State Textbook Commission.** Kaye Baird moved approval of the appointments to the Commission and Judy Gibbons seconded the motion. The motion carried.
2. **Kentucky Writing Program Advisory Committee Membership.** Janna Vice moved approval of the committee membership and Doug Hubbard seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **Review Items**

1. **Process the Kentucky Board of Education follows in certifying non-public schools.** Associate Commissioner Johnnie Grissom indicated that Lisa Speer, Chair of the Non-Public Schools Commission, was present today to describe the process used by the Commission to bring schools before the Board for consideration of certification. She reminded the Board that it had asked staff to bring back a review of the process. Grissom pointed out that the staff note outlines the history and description of the process plus the multi-tiered steps that are in place for quality control.

Chair Bonnie Freeman clarified that these certifications come before the committee in a routine way and said she wanted to make sure that members understood the process.

At this point, Lisa Speer made the following key points about the process used to certify non-public schools:

- The Kentucky Non-Public Schools Commission has 194 certified schools through the Kentucky Board of Education. Last year the schools educated 61,000 students.
- The Commission takes its responsibility on the certification process very seriously.
- It works with the accrediting institutions to ensure high standards and sound governance models.
- The Commission has a subcommittee that evaluates each group's accrediting process and has rejected some entities.
- Schools must undergo a self-study and site teams are sent to the schools to determine if they meet the criteria.
- A formal written report comes to the Non-Public Schools Commission and then it decides whether to recommend a school to the Kentucky Board of Education for certification. Schools have been rejected. It is important to the Commission that the course work and process be rigorous so that when students transfer to public schools, there are no questions about credit.
- The certification process allows non-public schools to participate in the KEES program.
- The Non-Public Schools Commission maintains close contact with Department staff and feels that the Department has done a good job in referring interested schools to the Commission.

Judy Gibbons then asked if a school does not meet the standards if the Commission works with them.

Lisa Speer replied affirmatively and noted that if a school wants to use an accrediting agency, the Commission puts them in touch with the agency; or the Executive Director of the Commission works with them if they want to use the process of the Non-Public Schools Commission.

2. **Refocusing Secondary Education Update.** Division Director Linda Pittenger indicated that following the August Board meeting the new secondary agenda would be released to local school districts as a call to action to invite districts to confirm their participation in or commit for the first time to deep engagement in the refocusing secondary initiative. She summarized that schools are in different stages of readiness for refocusing secondary with many at the beginning stages. Pittenger pointed members to page 173 of the Agenda Book that showed the technical assistance needs of alliance schools and districts, which she explained consisted of 75 high school and middle school partners. She indicated that there is good penetration of the refocusing messages with districts and leadership but emphasized that more work is needed with teachers. Pittenger went on to note that on page 174, an 18-month calendar appears on the delivery of professional development and technical assistance in the secondary schools initiative. She indicated that a lot of messaging work still needs to be done and that partners such as the Partnership for Successful Schools and Prichard Committee are assisting in the work. Pittenger clarified that staff will also be reaching out to schools that are currently not participating in the work because it is the direction that high schools and middle schools must go.

Doug Hubbard pointed out that he focuses on urgency and asked if the time could be reduced for getting this work done.

Linda Pittenger said that she liked a strong sense of urgency and stated staff would be pushing forward as rapidly as possible.

Commissioner Wilhoit asked that staff work on some talking points for Board members to use on the need for high school reform.

Chair Bonnie Freeman indicated she agreed that there is a need for common messages. She challenged Board members to think about how they can speak with common messages when they go out into communities.

Janna Vice then brought forward the following two issues:

- At what point will we be able to hold students accountable? It is questionable that a student can graduate from high school with a D and then we can say we have rigorous standards.

- It is difficult to say that we have performance-based learning in place when we don't have end-of-course assessments in place to evaluate student-based learning.

Linda Pittenger assured Ms. Vice that staff will bring more discussion on these two issues back to the Board because the two issues are related.

Bonnie Lash Freeman then asked how we will be able to assure the consistency of content in courses.

Linda Pittenger replied that the end-of-course assessments will help with this.

Freeman continued that since we are starting with the math end-of-course assessment and have the math center at Northern Kentucky University, she thought it would cause the retraining of math teachers. She then inquired about the plan for training on the new Individual Learning Plan.

Ms. Pittenger responded that the training will be begin in September and go through November. She emphasized that the tool on its own doesn't do the job but would require training and professional development as the key to effective implementation. Pittenger explained that she expects rolling implementation of the Individual Learning Plan through the year because some are ready now with others being ready later in the year.

Commissioner Wilhoit commented that the biggest hurdle with the Individual Learning Plan is not technology but is having a system of adults and students that interact on a regular basis.

Bonnie Lash Freeman then asked for the high school alliance team to come before the committee for a discussion at a future meeting.

3. **Secondary GED Program.** Jennifer Carroll came forward for this agenda item and noted the Kentucky Board of Education provided exceptional guidance as the Department rolled out the secondary GED program. She reviewed that it grew out of a 2004 General Assembly bill that was passed so that a secondary GED could be offered by high schools. Carroll stated that the intent of the legislation was clear that this would be a last chance opportunity for students for which no other option existed. Carroll noted that our secondary GED program includes higher standards than required by the American Council on Education, the national group that oversees the GED program. She summarized that 19 districts participated but reported only twelve identified students for service. Carroll referred members to page 184 and 185 of the Agenda Book that illustrated the data for the program. She stated that initially there were concerns whether the Department was being too narrow in its eligibility criteria but said that in checking with districts, we

have not heard from them that they could not serve students who needed this kind of assistance.

As follow-up to this conversation, Bonnie Lash Freeman said the committee would like to hear about the data Ms. Carroll was collecting in the future along with results of conversations she is having with community colleges.

### ***RECOGNITION OF BOB SHIMER***

Commissioner Wilhoit recognized Bob Shimer from the Governor's Office of Policy and Management upon his upcoming retirement. He explained that Mr. Shimer has worked directly with the Department, is extremely competent and has the highest level of professionalism. Wilhoit expressed to Mr. Shimer that he wanted him to know how much the Department values him.

### ***KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN***

Commissioner Wilhoit stated that staff sent the Board a revised strategic plan with proposed changes. He said he understood that some people had some comments to express and noted that he had passed out some additional amendments to be considered.

The following comments/feedback were given relative to the plan:

- Questions were raised about the core value that read "We believe all children can achieve at high levels, given opportunity and support." Some were concerned that it should be changed to read that "We believe all children should be given the opportunity and support to achieve at high levels." Others felt that within the core values the statement should go for the ultimate in what needs to exist and no wiggle room should be given as far as having high expectations. The final conclusion was to leave this core value as it reads now.
- A revision to the second core value was made so that it should read "We believe equity is essential".
- A request was made to add a core value that would read something like "We believe character traits such as honesty, integrity, fairness and respect for one another are foundational to productive citizenship".
- As far as the vision slogan, there was consensus to use the phrase "Every child – proficient and prepared for success".
- Under the bullets for realizing the vision, it was requested to add a bullet that read "Conduct themselves ethically and with integrity".
- It was requested to add to the bullet on thinking critically and problem-solving the word "creatively".

- To the specific areas that the Board will target in order to implement a comprehensive policy of meeting its goals and objectives on page 3, the words “and accountability” should be added to the second bullet about student’s assuming responsibility for their own learning and achievement.
- Additional bullets were requested to be added to page 3 as follows: a) Involve parents in their children’s learning and achievement; b) Challenge communities to support education through volunteer work and revenue renewal; and c) Invite the business community to be a working partner in education.
- On page 8 of the plan under 3.5, it was requested to add a bullet that would reflect enhancing the leadership role of local boards to involve the community.
- As far as the proposed amendments the Commissioner had handed out to the Board, it was agreed that under 2.2, bullets would be added to read: a) Increase instructional leadership capacity to focus on classroom instruction and the relationship of students and teachers in the presence of content and b) Increase the focus of instructional leadership on five organizational elements critical to the successful implementation of key action plans: stakeholders, culture, structure, system and capacity.

Commissioner Wilhoit then indicated that staff would make further revisions to the plan to reflect today’s conversation and send the Board a revised copy prior to the September 6 meeting.

### ***2007 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA OF THE KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION***

Deputy Commissioner Kevin Noland indicated that the Department had a good response from the recent legislative session. He reminded the members that the upcoming session is a short one with the objective being to try and not have any negative things happen. Noland went on to say that there are four studies underway that will result in recommendations that may require legislative action. He noted that staff will bring those recommendations as they come forward to the Board to see if anything relative to the Board’s legislative package needs to be decided. Noland then pointed out that on page 189 of the Agenda Book, the initiatives on which the Department was not successful were listed and asked if there were any that the Board wants staff to pursue in the next session.

Keith Travis put forward the ideas of pursuing a tax holiday for school districts and something on tobacco-free schools.

Doug Hubbard asked if we should go forward with some projects we know won’t get passed but might be used as negotiating tool.

David Webb then expressed that he hoped staff would leave the principal selection item in the legislative agenda and Joe Brothers agreed. Webb went on to say that the Board

needs to bring purpose to its package because there's a better chance of passage with fewer items.

Keith Travis added that he thought a bill on prevailing wage would have a tough battle in a short session.

### ***REPORT ON SCHOOL FACILITIES EVALUATION TASK FORCE***

Associate Commissioner Kyna Koch indicated that she would bring the Board up-to-date on the work of the School Facilities Evaluation Task Force since the time the staff note was written. She said that the full task force met to write its recommendations and struggled with this task. Koch went on to say that the subcommittees met again since the full task force meeting and indicated the full task force will come back in September to finalize its recommendations. She pointed out that the report from the task force is due to the General Assembly on September 15.

Doug Hubbard stated that the Board has talked about at various times the possibility of having boiler plate plans for districts to access and choose from.

Kyna Koch responded that the task force looked at this possibility but felt it was not viable.

C.B. Akins expressed that architects' fees are very high and perhaps boiler plate plans would provide the opportunity to save some money.

David Rhodes felt that the building process needs to be more competitive.

Ms. Koch clarified that Kentucky districts are only building about 20 new constructions a year. She stated that the Department does not see plans until they are already drawn up and the expectations are set at the local level. One of the recommendations that the task force is considering is that the Department of Education would hire the architect. Koch went on to say that staff will have the opportunity to see the task force recommendations on September 6 and she will get them to the Board as soon as possible.

### ***RELEASE OF NCLB ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS REPORT***

Commissioner Gene Wilhoit explained that the *No Child Left Behind* results will be released next week due to data errors that must be corrected. He noted that the Department had instituted internal controls to keep bad data from being released and emphasized that these internal controls paid off. Wilhoit commented that there are not a great deal of surprises in the report this time. He went on to say that he had to push the vendors in order to just have a week's delay on releasing the data. He clarified that this data is the *No Child Left Behind* data only and that the CATS data will be available at the end of September.

### ***APPROVAL OF ACTION/CONSENT ITEMS***



Bonnie Lash Freeman moved to approve all of the action/consent agenda items and Doug Hubbard seconded the motion. The motion carried. This motion applied to district facility plans, appointment of the State Textbook Commission and the Kentucky Writing Program Advisory Committee membership.

### ***MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT ON ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS***

Chair David Webb indicated that the committee approved the FY2007 Kentucky Education Technology System expenditure plan, Kentucky Education Technology System FY2007 Unmet Need for LEAs, 702 KAR 5:010 and 702 KAR 6:100. He explained that staff advised the committee that the declaration of emergency in Leslie County was not necessary at this time and thus action should not be taken because we will not know for certain until the auditor's report comes in if there is a deficit. He then moved approval of the four action/discussion items that were approved by his committee. The Board concurred with the motion.

### ***KDE EMPLOYMENT REPORT***

C.B. Akins said he continues to have concerns about meeting the goals in the Department with minority hiring.

The Commissioner responded that in the next couple months, the Department will be reallocating staff to meet priority needs.

Akins continued he hoped that every Department leader is committing to supporting minority employees.

### ***BOARD MEMBER SHARING***

The following items were raised during Board member sharing:

- David Rhodes was concerned about the inflation of student attendance in Johnson County. Kyna Koch responded that the Department is completing an audit in the district this week and will be making recommendations to the Commissioner next week.
- Kaye Baird asked for a status on the situation in Lawrence County. Commissioner Wilhoit responded that there is a very active group in Lawrence County that is concerned about every activity of the school district. He indicated that he has asked the district leadership to make improvements and met with the superintendent and board to learn they seem to be making these improvements. Wilhoit explained that none of the actions being implemented by district leadership is pleasing to the concerned group in Lawrence County. He added that the local board is under an improvement plan with training occurring.
- David Webb said that the Board has the ultimate responsibility for high school athletics and would like for a contact to be made with KHSAA to ask them to

reevaluate their practice guidelines for football in periods of extreme heat. He moved that the Department draft a letter from the Board requesting this and also to ask them to report back to the Board on the results of their examinations. Doug Hubbard seconded the motion and it carried.

### ***INTERNAL BOARD BUSINESS***

The following items were discussed under internal board business:

- Chair Travis indicated that the Board needed to designate a voting delegate and alternate for the NASBE annual conference in October. Doug Hubbard moved to appoint Keith Travis as the voting delegate and David Webb as the alternate. David Webb seconded the motion and it carried.
- Chair Travis asked that the September 6 meeting start at 9:30 a.m.
- Chair Travis indicated that he had asked Jeanne Ferguson to serve on the P-16 Council to fill the Board's current vacancy and asked for a motion to ratify that appointment. Doug Hubbard moved to appoint Jeanne Ferguson to this position and David Webb seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- Chair Travis then indicated that the Board needed to appoint a State Evaluation Appeals Panel and indicated that he asked David Webb to chair this along with Doug Hubbard and Kaye Baird as members. Janna Vice moved to ratify these appointments and C.B. Akins seconded the motion. It carried.
- Chair Travis reminded the Board that the October meeting would be held at the offices of the KHSAA in Lexington.

### ***CLOSED SESSION TO EVALUATE THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION***

Upon a motion made by Kaye Baird and David Webb, the Board went into closed session to evaluate the Commissioner of Education at 12:50 p.m. The motion carried. At 2:00 p.m. the Board came out of closed session on a motion by Janna Vice and a second by Doug Hubbard. The motion carried.

### ***ADJOURNMENT***

The Board adjourned at 2:00 p.m.